

Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GUATEMALA: THE WORST EVER

ESTIMATES OF THE DEATHS AND INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE HAVE INCREASED TO 12,800 AND 30,300 RESPECTIVELY. IN A FEBRUARY 8 TELECON WITH S/S-O, AMBASSADOR MELOY SAID:

--WE HAVE IN GUATEMALA THE GREATEST DISASTER IN THE RECORDED HISTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

--THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THAT GOG WILL EVER BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE ITSELF TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM.

--WE CANNOT WAIT LONGER TO APPLY US RELIEF MEASURES.

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THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE GOG HAS IN EFFECT TURNED OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELIEF IN THE WORST HIT AREA TO THE USG AND THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN THOSE OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. (UNCLASSIFIED) GUATEMALA 954, 2/9.)

2. UNITA-MPLA: NIGERIA AS GO-BETWEEN

UK HIGH COMMISSIONER LE QUESNE TOLD EMBASSY LAGOS FEBRUARY 7 THAT HE HAD DELIVERED TO THE NIGERIAN MFA A UNITA PROPOSAL FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT. LE QUESNE SAID THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT:

--HAS AGREED TO MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH TO THE MPLA; AND

--FEELS RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS IS A NECESSARY PRECONDITION TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS FROM ANGOLA.

LE QUESNE ALSO SAID THE NIGERIAN MILITARY RULED OUT SENDING TROOPS TO ANGOLA BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LAGOS 1601, 2/8.)

3. MOROCCO SHOPS FOR ARMS

A. HELP FROM IRAN

ON FEBRUARY 8 IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI SHOWED AMBASSADOR HELMS A LIST OF ARMS WHICH MOROCCO IS REQUESTING FROM THE SHAH.

--IRAN SEEKS US APPROVAL TO PASS THE ARMS TO JORDAN WHICH WILL IN TURN FORWARD THEM TO MOROCCO.

--THE ITEMS INCLUDE TOW LAUNCHERS AND MISSILES, REDEYE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES, A SQUADRON OF F-5'S, HOWITZERS, AND AMMUNITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 1267 (EXDIS), 2/8.)

B. HUSSEIN TO THE RESCUE

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FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MOROCCAN MILITARY DELEGATION RETURNING FROM TEHRAN, HUSSEIN SUMMONED AMBASSADOR PICKERING FEBRUARY 8 TO SEEK AID IN FILLING MOROCCO'S REQUEST FOR 25 F-5A'S AND 36 L06MM RECOILESS RIFLES. THE KING EXPLAINED:

--HE IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE RIFLES WITHOUT REPLACE-

MENT.

--THE SHAH HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE FOUR OR FIVE F-5A'S
IF THEY APPEAR TO COME FROM JORDAN AND THE US APPROVES.

--HE WILL, WITH US APPROVAL, TRANSFER TWENTY OF THE
F-5A'S GIVEN HIM RECENTLY BY IRAN, IF THE USG WILL
REPLACE THEM IN KIND OR WITH "SOME EQUIVALENT NUMBER
OF F-5E'S.

ACCORDING TO HUSSEIN, ASAD SAID LAST MONTH THAT HE WOULD
LIKE TO STAY OUT OF THE SAHARAN CONFLICT. IF HE HAS TO
COMMIT HIMSELF HOWEVER, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TURN HIS
BACK ON MOROCCO IN VIEW OF WHAT THAT COUNTRY DID TO HELP
HIM IN OCTOBER 1973. (SECRET) AMMAN 687 (EXDIS), 2/8.)

4. GO SLOW PROPOSED ON FMS IN KUWAIT

FOLLOWING AN ASSESSMENT BY A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TEAM,
EMBASSY KUWAIT CONCURS IN RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE US SLOW
THE PACE OF FMS ASSISTANCE TO KUWAIT. THE EMBASSY:

--AGREES THAT NO SUPPLIES SHOULD BE GRANTED FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A KUWAITI NAVY;

--ARGUES THAT IN KUWAIT THE US CANNOT REALISTICALLY
EXPECT TO USE THE FMS PROGRAM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF
POLITICAL PERSUASION; AND

--ENDORSES THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF US COMMITMENTS
ON SUPPLY OF AIRCRAFT AND HAWK BATTERIES BUT WILL DIS-
COURAGE KUWAIT FROM MAKING FURTHER REQUESTS IN THESE
AREAS.

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NOTING THAT THE KUWAITIS MAY BE TEMPTED TO SEEK EVEN MORE
SOVIET WEAPONS IF THE FMS PROGRAM DECLINES, THE EMBASSY
SPECULATES THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT CAUSE MAJOR
COMMERCIAL LOSS, SINCE KUWAIT WILL TURN TO US PRIVATE COM-
PANIES FOR SOME SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT. MOREOVER, KUWAITI
INVESTMENT IN THE US WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BECAUSE NO OTHER
COUNTRY IS CAPABLE OF ABSORBING MOST OF KUWAIT'S EXCESS
FUNDS. (SECRET) KUWAIT 622 (LIMDIS), 2/7.) INGERSOLL

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